

Business Indicators ♦ June 2011

Population Highlights, First Quarter 2011

The estimated population of British Columbia totalled 4,563,296 persons as of April 1st, 2011, for an increase of 1.1 per cent over the preceding twelve months. Canada grew at the same rate and compared to the other provinces BC had the sixth strongest growth rate. Alberta and P.E.I. were tied for first place; each recorded an increase of 1.5 per cent whereas Newfoundland and Labrador observed a 0.3 per cent loss over the last twelve months.

The Last Twelve Months: April 2010 to April 2011

BC's population grew by 47,814 persons over the twelve month period ending April 1, 2011. Migration is typically the largest contributor to BC's population growth and since April 1, 2010, about three-quarters of the population gain could be attributed to this component. The remaining 25 per cent was due to natural increase (births minus deaths).

Table 1: Components of BC Population Growth
Apr 1, 2010 to Apr 1, 2011

| Population April 1, 2010 | | 4,515,482 |
|----------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Interprovincial migration | | +2,898 |
| Add interprovincial arrivals | +57,503 | |
| Minus interprovincial departures | -54,605 | |
| International migration | | +32,832 |
| Add Immigrants | 41,889 | |
| Minus Emigrants | -7,582 | |
| Add Other (1) | -1,475 | |
| Natural Increase | | +12,084 |
| Add Births | 43,550 | |
| Minus Deaths | -31,466 | |
| Population April 1, 2011 | | 4,563,296 |

(1) Other includes Returning Emigrants minus the net change in Temporary Emigrants plus the net change in Non-permanent Residents

Source: Statistics Canada

The First Quarter of 2011

During the first three months of 2011, the population grew by an estimated 9,211 persons (+0.2%). Net international migration (+7,049) accounted for nearly all of the growth followed by natural increase (births minus deaths) of 2,260. On an interprovincial basis, BC recorded a net loss of 98 persons to other provinces and territories in the first quarter. Over this period, 12,598 persons moved to BC while 12,696 persons left BC for other Canadian jurisdictions.

Table 2: Components of BC Population Growth
Jan 1, 2011 to Apr 1, 2011

| Population January 1, 2011 | | 4,554,085 |
|----------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Interprovincial migration | | -98 |
| Add interprovincial arrivals | +12,598 | |
| Minus interprovincial departures | -12,696 | |
| International migration | | +7,049 |
| Add Immigrants | +7,328 | |
| Minus Emigrants | -1,338 | |
| Add Other (1) | +1,059 | |
| Natural Increase | | +2,260 |
| Add Births | 10,480 | |
| Minus Deaths | -8,220 | |
| Population April 1, 2011 | | 4,563,296 |

(1) Other includes Returning Emigrants minus the net change in Temporary Emigrants plus the net change in Non-permanent Residents

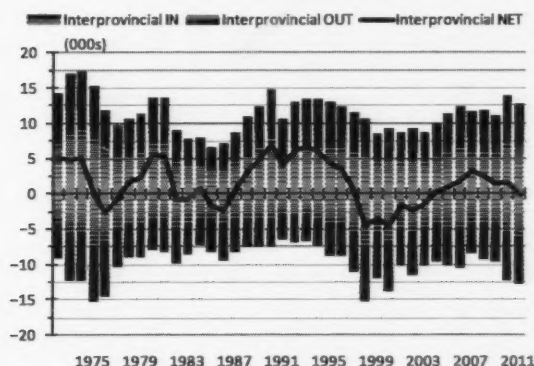
Source: Statistics Canada

First Quarter Interprovincial Migration

Historically, BC has had the greatest exchange of population with Alberta and this quarter was no different. During the first three months of 2011, the net flow between BC and Alberta totalled -893 persons, with 5,811 people moving from Alberta to BC

and 6,704 BC residents moving to Alberta. On the other hand, BC recorded net gains from Saskatchewan (+372) and Manitoba (+442). During the first quarter, only Alberta and the Yukon reported net gains due to interprovincial migration. Nova Scotia observed the largest net loss at 1,034 persons.

Figure 1: 1st Quarter Interprovincial Migration, BC



Source: Statistics Canada

This is the first time in nearly nine years that BC has recorded a quarterly net loss to other provinces. Not since the second quarter of 2003 has BC ventured into negative territory. It should be noted however that these estimates are not final but *preliminary*. Statistics Canada releases updated or final population estimates once a year in September. For the other three releases preliminary population estimates are estimated using information that is less complete and/or reliable, albeit more timely, than used for updated or final estimates. Consequently, the preliminary estimates tend to be more volatile than the updated or final estimates but will more often than not reflect the overall trend. We will have to wait until September 2011 to see whether or not this quarterly net loss holds, however we can be reasonably assured that interprovincial migration to BC appears to be trending down.

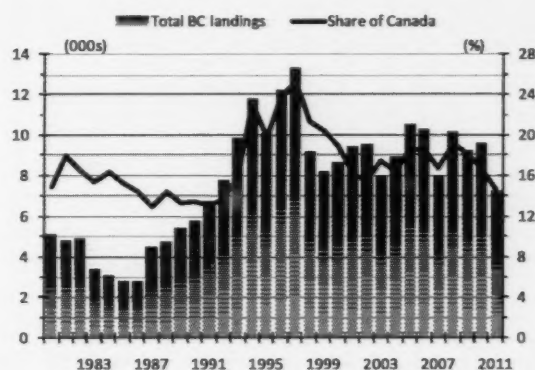
For more information on how Statistics Canada develops interprovincial migration

estimates, please see the Statistics Canada publication "Population and Family Estimation Methods at Statistics Canada" catalogue number 91-528.

First Quarter International Migration

During the first three months of 2011 7,328 international immigrants arrived in BC, representing 14.8 per cent of the total 49,538 new comers to Canada. BC, after Ontario and Quebec, has been the third most popular province of destination for immigrants arriving in recent years. During the last decade, the number of immigrants settling in BC has been relatively stable at about 35,000 to 45,000 persons per year. A majority of these new comers settled in the Greater Vancouver area.

Figure 2: 1st Quarter International Immigration, BC



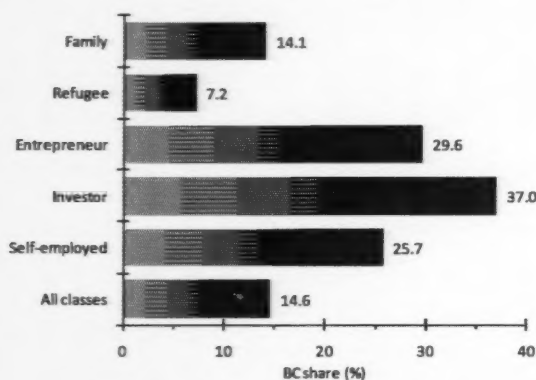
Source: Statistics Canada

Under the current federal immigration policy, immigrants are admitted to the country under various themes and categories. Reunification of family members/relatives and filling domestic labour shortages are two of the top priorities of Canadian immigration. This has been reflected by the higher proportions of immigrants admitted under the family and economic categories.

Of all the international immigrants arriving in the first quarter of 2011, 28.8 per cent

were in the family class, 43.5 per cent were in the independent skilled worker class, 12.6 per cent were in the business class, and only 4.5 were per cent in the refugee class. When compared to other provinces/territories, BC tends to attract a relatively higher share of immigrants in the economic class and a smaller proportion in the refugee class. During this period, BC absorbed 36.2 per cent of all immigrants admitted to Canada under the investor, entrepreneur or self-employed classes but only 7.2 per cent in the refugee class.

Figure 3: BC Immigration by Class, Q1- 2011



Source: Statistics Canada

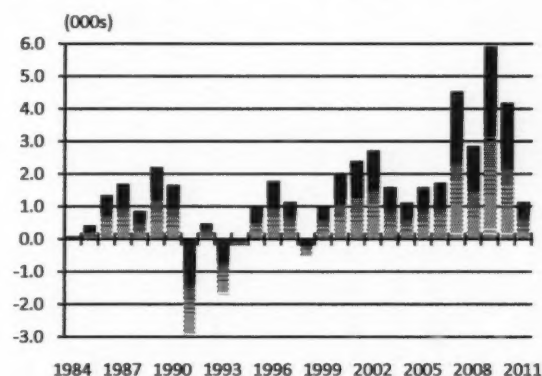
Over the past two decades the majority of immigrants to BC have come from Asia. Of the Asian regions, China is still the leading source country of immigrants to BC and Canada, accounting for 20.7 per cent of all landings in BC during the last quarter. Over the last ten years, China, India, South Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan, Iran, USA and England have consistently been the top source countries. More often than not, the top five source countries combined are responsible for between 55 to 65 per cent of all immigrants landed in the province.

Non-permanent Residents

Non permanent residents (NPRs) are foreign individuals who are legally granted the right to live in Canada on a temporary basis. They are mainly students and temporary workers but may also be persons holding a minister's permit or refugee claimants. In addition, the permits and authorizations may include coverage for family members of the principle document holder; these individuals are also considered part of the NPR population. As NPRs have played an increasingly important role in the economic development of Canada over the last few decades, Statistics Canada decided to include this population in the international migration component.

The number of NPRs tends to fluctuate over time due to the temporary nature of the population and seasonality factors. During the first quarter of 2011, the number of NPR's increased by 1,135 individuals. This accounted for 12.3 per cent of the total population growth in BC during the first three months of 2011.

Figure 4: 1st Quarter Net Change in NPRs, BC



Source: Statistics Canada